



## Chapter 2: Arizona's Response

In keeping her pledge to address domestic and sexual violence, Governor Napolitano, in 2003, appointed 57 members to the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. The Commission reflects the ethnic and regional diversity of Arizona and includes representation from victim services, offender treatment, law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, the business community, the medical community, the mental health community, children's services, aging services, state agencies, advocacy groups, survivors, and populations at risk.

The purpose of the Commission is threefold:

- ❧ To unite and enhance statewide efforts to prevent and end violence against women
- ❧ To serve as a clearinghouse for domestic and sexual violence related work in Arizona
- ❧ To develop recommendations for appropriate policy and legislation.

In developing this Plan, the Commission has provided both vision and leadership. Commission members chair and/or participate on ad hoc subcommittees, serving as representatives of their region or areas of expertise, and provide invaluable information and perspective on critical issues affecting Arizona citizens.

### Developing the State Plan

#### 2.1 The Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women



## 2.2 Process of Developing State Plan

The *State Plan* was developed by six subcommittees:

- ⌘ Prevention/Early Intervention
- ⌘ Victim Services/Crisis Response
- ⌘ Criminal Justice
- ⌘ Offender Treatment and Accountability
- ⌘ Sexual Assault
- ⌘ Data Collection

The subcommittees were co-chaired by Commission members and began meeting monthly in June of 2003. Over 150 stakeholders participated in these meetings, including members of the public and individuals with expertise in each subject area.

Subcommittees prioritized recommendations based on three factors:

1. The likelihood of the recommendation reducing domestic and sexual violence.
2. The cost of implementing the recommendation.
3. The feasibility of accomplishing the recommendation.

Recommendations that received the highest scores or were otherwise deemed critical by the subcommittees are what make up the *State Plan*.



Many of the recommendations developed by the subcommittees focused on the effects of domestic and sexual violence on children, with the hope that solutions focusing on children can help prevent future generations from becoming victims or perpetrators. The recommendations in the Children's Chapter complement recommendations in Governor Napolitano's CPS Action Plan.

Once the subcommittees had completed their work, an Advisory Board was convened to review the recommendations for consistency with the guiding principles, to edit them to ensure clarity and purpose, and to address any remaining gaps. The Advisory Board sent the Commission more than 60 recommendations, which include those in the Children's Chapter.

It is the goal of this *State Plan* to address each of the problems identified through policy change, legislative action, training protocol development, and a variety of other activities at the state and local level. Law enforcement, the courts, probation, corrections, the medical community, child protective services, advocates, and citizens need to come together to work on these long-term sustainable solutions.

The recommendations contained within this document do not simply restate the problems of needed services and increased funding. These recommendations propose comprehensive solutions to difficult and complex issues. A coordinated community response that involves public and private partners who care about and are impacted by domestic and sexual violence is the key to reaching this vision.

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## 2.3 Guiding Principles

The Commission established the following guiding principles that were used to develop the State Plan based on the vision of reducing the incidence of domestic and sexual violence in Arizona.

### Guiding Principle 1

Increased Awareness And Understanding of The Prevalence and Incidence of Domestic and Sexual Violence in Arizona.

### Guiding Principle 2

Increased Efforts to Prevent Domestic and Sexual Violence

### Guiding Principle 3

Increased Collaboration and Coordination among Key Guiding Stakeholders

### Guiding Principle 4

Stakeholders to Respond More Effectively to Acts of Violence Against Women and their Children

### Guiding Principle 5

Increased Safety for Women and their Children

### Guiding Principle 6

Increased Accountability for Offenders

